GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5433
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
AFGHAN REFUGEES
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Afghan refugees are staying in India;

(b) if so, since when, alongwith their number;

(c) whether India is drawing some financial aid from U.N.O., in this regard;

(d) if so, since when, and the quantum thereof ;

(e) whether the Government are willing to keep some more Afghan refugees in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(b) On account of continuing civil conflict in Afghanistan a large number of Afghan nationals are presently living in India. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs records there are 12083 registered Afghan nationals residing in India. In keeping with our traditional policy of friendship towards the people of Afghanistan, all Afghan nationals, including those of Indian origin, who came to India with valid travel documents/passports are being allowed to stay unhindered; they are being granted six monthly visa extensions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e)-(f) In a press conference on 28th May, 2001, External Affairs Minister had said that all those who do not subscribe to the idea of the Taliban and leave Afghanistan and ask India for temporary shelter would be provided with a shelter.